

Good Afternoon, my name is Lacey Charboneau and I am a long term care ombudsman for Southwest Michigan with Citizen's for Better Care. Prior to my work as an ombudsman, I worked as an Adult Foster Care Home manager. Both Citizens for Better Care and I agree that it would not benefit residents of Adult Foster Care homes, AFC home staff, or Licensing staff to rescind the background check requirement for AFC homes in Act 218, and combine it with the background regulations for Nursing Homes and Homes for the Aged as has been proposed in SB 1253 and 1254.

Nursing homes are health facilities. Adult Foster Care homes are not, in fact, the majority of AFC homes are small homes run by families who care directly for their residents. Combining these acts into one will not simplify regulation of the homes as licensing staff will have to reference two separate statutory requirements. In addition if the residents, their families, or advocates have concerns regarding the staff in an AFC home, it will be more tedious to locate the appropriate regulatory information. In order to improve the quality of life for Michigan's older adults and save Medicaid dollars, efforts are being increased to transition NH residents to community settings. AFC homes are critical to the success of this effort. It is imperative that perspective owners and operators of new AFC homes are able to easily access regulatory information in one central location.

We urge you to reconsider these bills and keep the AFC background check requirements in the Adult Foster Care Licensing Act – Act 218.